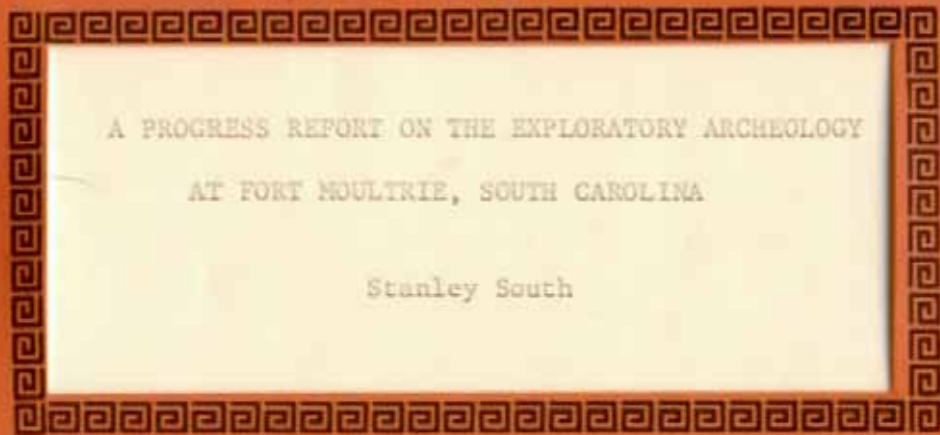


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A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EXPLORATORY ARCHEOLOGY  
AT FORT MOULTRIE, SOUTH CAROLINA

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# A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EXPLORATORY ARCHEOLOGY AT FORT MOULTRIE

Stanley South

The primary goal of the exploratory archeology at Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina was to locate remains of Fort Sullivan built by William Moultrie and his men of the Second South Carolina Regiment in 1776. The successful repulse of the British fleet on June 28, 1776, resulted in the name of the fort being changed to Fort Moultrie. The archeological expedition was carried out by means of a contract between The National Park Service and The Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina. The expedition was planned for a period of five and one-half weeks in the field, from October 15 through November 21, 1973, but an additional week was added through the auspices of the Park Service to allow for backfilling during the week of November 26-30.

Although the goal of the project was primarily to locate the first fort, other data located in the process was to be gathered as it was encountered relative to the second fort, or to the third fort, still standing on the site. This report, prepared on November 24th, is a summary of the project just completed, and is prepared at this time to present data for consideration in future planning on the site in the months and years to come in connection with the American Bicentennial effort. In addition to summarizing the archeological data, this report

includes recommendations for further archeological work, and comments and suggestions relative to Phase 8 of the archeological process, explanatory exhibits anchored in archeological data.

#### THE GARNER HYPOTHESIS

The first trenches were placed east of the third fort in an attempt to cross the fort ditch from the first fort. These were placed in this area because there was a correlation between an hypothesis as to the fort's location put forward by John Garner and that outlined by Ed Bearss at this point, and a trench here would take both interpretations into consideration. These trenches were not placed where the research design statement had indicated the first archeology was to be done, however, due to the examination by the archeologist of features shown on an aerial photograph, and used by John Garner to position the southeast bastion of the first fort. This angular feature was shown clearly on the 1967 aerial photograph of the site, and on the basis of Garner's superimposing the first fort over this feature the first archeology was planned for this area. However, probing revealed nothing but beach sand loosely laid, and visual inspection did not reveal the features so dramatically seen on the aerial photograph. If this feature had survived two hundred years of hurricanes only to virtually disappear in the last six years, there was a good chance that the feature was not a part of the first Fort Moultrie. For this reason the Garner Hypothesis was abandoned before the archeology began, and the first trench was placed at a spot where Ed Bearss' research had indicated the east curtain and southeast bastion of the original fort should be located. (In the light

of the present archeological project just completed, and the correlation resulting therefrom, it appears that this first trench crossed the neck of the southeast bastion.) The abandonment of the Garner Hypothesis before the project began resulted in considerable concern on the part of some that archeology was not pursuing the proper course, and considerable pressure was exerted toward examination of the second of Garner's anchors, the Bowman jetty fort ruin, discovered by the engineer who built a jetty from near the southeast corner of the third fort to the south in 1839. Bowman said he found the masonry remains of an "old fort" at his fifth crib (250 feet out), and it was this fort ruin that constituted the second anchor of Garner's hypothesis for the location of the first fort.

On the second day of the project a backhoe was brought to the site by the archeologist to examine the area where Bowman indicated the fort remains to have been. Four feet below surface water was found, and soon became a major problem to going any further down. However, a large hole was dug under John Garner's supervision and the large stone blocks of Bowman's jetty were found. However, it became apparent that further work here would require considerable logistics arrangements such as well points, a drag line, and other expensive equipment not available under the present financial agreement.

The archeologist was skeptical of the Bowman jetty fort as being part of the first fort since the second Fort Moultrie was located in the area, and the first foundation for this had extended a considerable distance toward the east, and it was this extension, the archeologist felt, that Bowman likely saw. If this were the case, then the best approach would be for

archeology to proceed in an area not represented by the wall of the second fort, or by a recent sand feature, and this is what was done. On the first day of the project, after the sand feature on the aerial photograph had been rejected as a part of the first fort, Mr. Perceval Potet visited the excavation and said that the sand feature on the aerial photograph was the remains of a one-half scale replica of Fort Moultrie built by a committee under his supervision in 1966 to celebrate the 190th anniversary of the battle.

In recent weeks George Fischer, Archeologist for the National Park Service, in response to continued pressure to examine the site of the Bowman jetty fort, arrived on the site with plans to obtain contractual assistance from well point specialists and drag-line operators if needed by the archeologist in his search for the first fort. A second project was to be a search for the wells shown on the maps of the second fort. George and the helpful backing of his office were to assist the archeologist in obtaining these goals. However, since the archeologist by this time was so busy examining the remains of the first fort, he could not take time off from that goal to search for the second fort or to attempt to locate the Bowman jetty fort. George and his assistant did, however, assist with the examination and excavation of the first fort, and rendered valuable assistance in procuring well points, pumps and other equipment necessary in examination of the first fort data.

Location of the second fort will require every bit as much time and logistics base to examine as the exploratory project to find the first fort has been, and it should be planned as a

major project, not as merely something that can be done in a day or two or a week. Since the archeologist has had as an uppermost goal the location of the first Fort Moultrie of 1776, he has concentrated on this. The following section of this report outlines the data recovered during this search.

#### The First Archeological Trenches East of the Third Fort

These trenches were designed to examine the geological relationships as well as archeological ones, and were carried to a depth of four feet, approximately, where the water table was reached. At this depth no artifacts dating earlier than the late nineteenth century were recovered, and also as this depth an old beach was revealed. The slope of the beach was from south to north, which indicated that water was draining from the beach toward the north into the sound at the time the beach was here. Sand dunes were also encountered, and this information correlates with a map showing a beach in this area in 1833. It became obvious that to reach the level of data from the first fort we would have to go considerably lower, into the water table, which would require many well points and pumps, etc.

With this information available it became apparent that we needed to look for the fort at a place where the dramatic impact of the sea had not been so frequently felt on the terrain during the last two centuries, and the most logical site was the area in the protective lee of the third fort. The first trenches were backfilled on the second day, and excavation was begun to the north of the third fort, in the yard between the fort and the street.

### Excavation in the Area Northeast of the Third Fort

The first trenches in this area east of the entrance walk to the third fort revealed a layer of occupation with midden thrown onto the old surface at a depth of less than four feet. The artifacts from this level were from the period of the War of 1812, revealing that we should go deeper to get at the material from occupation during the Revolution. We were at water level, so could not go deeper without the aid of pumps. These were brought in and well points driven through the courtesy of the Sullivan's Island Township Water Department. This lowered the water sufficiently to determine that no artifacts of the eighteenth century were below the early nineteenth century layer. It also allowed us to use the backhoe to extend the depth of our excavation seven feet into a fill layer which appeared to be the bed of the canal shown on the maps of the fort. This canal was thirty feet wide, according to the records, and should have been in the area of our first trench, which is why we placed the trench in this position. With the recovery of leather shoes, wood fragments of many kinds, buttons, etc. from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century it appeared that we were in the channel of the canal.

With the control of the strata resulting from the sifting operation carried out on these first trenches in this area we were able to proceed with the use of the backhoe to open other trenches. The purpose of sifting the first layers was to obtain tight understanding of the various layers and their time periods, and the site offered a classic example of stratigraphic layering. If we ever need a textbook example of stratigraphy we can well

use this area for that purpose. The top brown humus layer contained artifacts from the past one hundred years. The yellow sand layer beneath contained artifacts from the period of the Civil War, and the brick rubble, plaster, mortar, and sand layer beneath contained material from the 1830's. Beneath this is a much darker brown humus and midden deposit layer contained buttons and other objects from the period from around 1800 to around 1820, and which represents garbage thrown from the third fort during its early years of occupation. The buttons reveal the various units stationed here during this period. In other areas of the site, particularly in front of the third fort door the strata is further characterized by a flood (ocean laid) sand deposit six inches thick, probably representing the hurricanes of 1802, 03, and 1804, and beneath this is an oyster shell and bone midden layer containing artifacts only dating from the period of the 1770's and 1780's. It is this layer that is of most concern to us in regard to the 1776 fort of William Moultrie.

#### Excavation of the 1860 Palisade for the Third Fort

In the area to the north of the northwest bastion of the third fort the remains of a stockade wall were found. The posts were square cut timbers one foot square with a half-timber-thick notch cut in the bottom end. This notch sat on a six by eight inch horizontally laid beam laid in a ditch. This method of positioning the posts allowed for a straight line to be maintained down the length of the stockade wall, and insured regularity of height of the wall. This stockade wall was located fifteen feet from the north face of the northwest bastion of the third fort, and this distance correlates with a reference stating that in

1860 a palisade was constructed at this distance from the fort.

During the early days of the project a backhoe cut was made to the south of the third fort at a distance of from 25 to 55 feet from the fort, and extending north and south. This cut revealed a palisade wall at a distance of 42 feet from the third fort and parallel with it. The posts were inclined toward the south, away from the fort. This palisade is probably associated with the period of the Civil War also, since similar palisades are seen in photographs taken during the period.

At the palisade north of the northwest bastion it was found that a ditch was dug between the palisade and the fort, but this feature was not examined through Third Phase archeology since it would have taken time away from the examination of the first fort. In the area immediately in front of the north curtain wall it was found that this ditch was twenty-five feet wide.

#### Excavation of the Palisade Probably Dating from 1833

In the area in front (northeast) of the northwest bastion a palisade was found that contained posts leaning toward the northeast. The fact that the posts lean in this manner would tend to indicate a parallel with the Civil War period palisade found south of the third fort, but the archeological data indicate that the palisade was earlier than this period. This pine post palisade exactly parallels the line of the ditch of the first fort, as though it was positioned in relation to that fort ditch, but it is clearly intrusive into the garbage thrown out by the men occupying the first fort, making it later. It is not nearly as late as the Civil War, and therefore, may be a palisade of 1833, mentioned in the documents. It might also be a palisade

added by the British after they took the original fort in 1780, or even by the Americans who re-occupied it after the British left. At any rate this is an early palisade, possibly as late as 1833, but at present this appears doubtful. Further work on this architectural feature in relation to the first fort ditch needs to be done before the date of this ditch can be fixed with certainty.

#### The Brick Walks and Roadways to the Third Fort

In excavating the trenches to the west of the central entranceway to the present third fort it was necessary to cut through a road surfaced with brick bats salvaged from earlier construction (probably the ruins of the second fort). This road appears to run parallel with the northeast face of the northwest bastion, and is shown on maps of the early nineteenth century.

A small hole was excavated in the present roadway to the door of the fort, between the concrete driveway supports. At a level of about one foot a nicely laid brick roadway was found, with the bricks set on edge. This road was so well laid and in such good shape that we did not continue excavation here, but photographed the feature and backfilled the hole. This was done in the expectation that when the entranceway is de-done for the Bicentennial there may be a return of the level of the access to the fort to this late nineteenth century brick roadway, which is certainly more attractive than the present approach. This roadway probably dates from the 1870's period of use of the third fort. If there is no plan to return the entranceway to this period, then we may well want to rip it out and get down to the important answers relative to the first fort that lie beneath this present driveway.

In excavating trenches in front of the northeast bastion of the third fort a brick drain was also found, covered with pink sandstone blocks, that may date from the late nineteenth century period of use of the fort.

#### Discovery and Excavation at the Northwest Bastion of the First Fort Moultrie of 1776

##### The Ditch of the First Fort Moultrie

Trenches excavated in the area northwest of the entrance to the third fort revealed a four foot wide ditch extending from beneath the road north of the northwest bastion to the third fort, to beneath the entranceway road to the third fort, a distance of 120 feet of straight ditch. This ditch was found beneath a four to eight inch layer of oyster shell and bone midden covering the entire area above the ditch and toward the west for ten to twenty feet. In two areas the oyster shell midden could be seen east of the ditch as well, filling a depression paralleling the ditch. The profile of the ditch was obtained in one place, and other profiles are now being obtained through removal of the ditch contents, which will be carried out in the week of November 26 - 30, 1973. The one profile reveals that the ditch is two feet deep, but this may be found to vary in different areas of the ditch as sections are removed.

The ditch contains many fragments of palmetto logs, some several feet long. These are in a poor state of preservation, but some effort will be made to remove and preserve these for possible exhibit purposes. The consistency of these logs is like that of sponge cake, but the characteristically fibrous

nature of the logs of palmetto leave no doubt as to their identity. These logs were thrown into the ditch fill after the ditch was almost full of sand and debris. Beneath the palmetto logs discarded or rolled into the ditch, probably by people salvaging bricks and other materials from the fort, a skeleton of a large dog was found. This area is still in the process of being examined and more surprises may well lay in store for us beneath these palmetto logs.

In the trench north of the sidewalk the fort ditch contained many brick bats and a very few whole bricks, apparently salvaged from the brick works of the fort. The absence of whole bricks makes clear the fact that salvage efforts were involved in the placing of the brick bats in the ditch fill. In this section of the ditch it was possible to look at a section about three feet wide, or less, and here quantities of black powder were found surrounding the bricks and artifacts thrown into the ditch. One bag of powder could account for the powder found, which may have been discarded when it became too damp or spoiled for use. Fragments of what appear to be explosive shells were also found in this area of the ditch. Just to the west of the ditch in this trench a solid cannon ball was found at the level of the ditch, which has tentatively been identified as an eighteen pounder ball. A long iron rod about three feet long, an ax head, many fragments of barrel bands, bone, oyster shells, and other garbage including many wine bottle fragments characterize the contents of the ditch. The soil taken from these ditch areas has been stockpiled to be sifted this week, and more artifacts will be recovered as this sifting is carried out. This procedure is necessary because of

the water level problem. The ditches must be excavated when the water level is low, then when the pumps are turned off the profiles collapse, causing much cleaning of the area the next day when the water level is again lowered by the pumps. Pumps operating twenty-four hours a day would be best for the systematic excavation of any large section of the fort ditch.

The small two foot wide section of the ditch near the road curb at the northernmost point where the ditch was seen is also a rich area of the ditch for artifacts disposed of by discarding them in the depression of the ditch. Here a garbage deposit used by the British forces who occupied the fort from 1780-1782 was found, including regimental buttons from several regiments, as well as the buttons from William Moultrie's men of the Second South Carolina Regiment which have a large "2" in relief. This section of the ditch is still in the process of being excavated by means of Phase 3 archeology methods, and hopefully this will be completed this coming week. It was noticed that the artifact content of the ditch and the area around the ditch decreased as the ditch was followed toward the southeast. Above the ditch at the edge of the entrance to the third fort, however, a spade or similar shaped tool was found which was covered with black powder. The remarkable fact about the midden deposits in and above the fort ditch, is the high quantity of artifacts from the period of the 1770's and 1780's. Already from the less than five feet of linear ditch contents that have been removed, we have boxes and boxes of bone, wine bottle fragments, samples of oyster and clam, conch and mussel discarded by the men of William Moultrie's regiment and the other South Carolina regiments, as well as the British regiments who occupied the area after 1780.

The Pegs Driven to Delineate the Outline of the First Fort  
By Those Constructing Fort Sullivan in 1776

At the edge of the fort ditch in Trench 22, and at the edge of the ditch in Trench 36 a total of three wooden pegs were found. These were placed at the edge of the inside of the ditch, the one in Trench 22 apparently marking the inside of the ditch, and the two in Trench 36 marking the edge of the ditch and angle there. The position of these was recorded and the pegs removed as artifacts. Further archeological work should locate more of these pegs if indeed they are, as they appear to be, originally used to lay out the position of the first fort.

The Berm with Clay Cap on the North Curtain Wall of the First Fort

In Trench 36 a south edge of an east-west running ditch was found, with the edge of the ditch south of the ditch fill being capped with a mixture of sticky gray potter's clay mixed with small bits of oyster shell. This clay cap was about three to one inch thick, tapering toward the edge of the ditch. It was into the edge of this clay, and the edge of the ditch fill that the wooden pegs were found. At the west end of this trench the edge of the ditch and the clay capped berm beside the ditch was seen to angle toward the northwest. The westernmost peg was located at this angle. This clay capped berm beside a ditch in which there is gray fill sand containing most of a wine glass with air twist stem, and fragments of French faience dating from the 1780's, is seen as the berm for the north curtain wall of the original fort.

### The Gate to the Original Fort Moultrie of 1776

To the east of the end of Trench 36 a brick drain was found crossing the trench from southwest to northeast. When the soil east of this drain was cleaned off to reveal the outline of the clay-capped berm and fort ditch edge seen west of the drain, these features could not be seen. A profile was cut here to attempt to determine why the berm and ditch could not be seen, and the profile revealed only gray mixed fill soil, an entirely different profile than was seen west of the drain. In order to check on the reason for this a trench was cut a few feet east of the end of Trench 36, and this trench revealed the edge of the ditch, but the clay here that had been seen on the berm, had been baked hard by having hot ashes thrown onto the surface, forming a brick hard layer or cap. The artifacts associated with the ashes, however, appear to be later than the period of the Revolution, as though the ditch was still open with the berm exposed at that time (early nineteenth century). More work needs to be done in a wider area here to check on these interpretations, but it appears that the reason the ditch is interrupted is that a causeway crossed the ditch at this point, with a drain (covered with a board) using the causeway to carry water from inside the fort across the ditch to the area beyond. This situation is one seen in other forts of the period, Fort Prince George, etc. A large area excavated in this area of the first fort gate would help to answer some of the questions that are now arising from the fact that we have only a few glimpses at what was going on here, at a depth of four feet, below the water table, etc., calling for more extensive archeology.

One of the questions is in regard to the nature of the ditch thought to be in front of the north curtain wall of the fort. Instead of being four feet wide here it appears to be much broader. This was discovered with the opening of Trench 58, adjoining Trench 36 to the north. This trench was designed to catch the inside edge of the curtain ditch as it joined the ditch of the northwest bastion, forming an angle. However, the angle seen here when the proper level was reached turned out not to be the ditch edge, but rather a slump of white sand forming an "L". This in itself may indicate a turning of the ditch here, but the profiles reveal only fill to a depth of about eighteen inches. This is what would be expected if the ditch were wider here than on the west side of the bastion, or if the soil in the area paralleling the curtain wall to the north had been lowered in a wide area to obtain sand for filling the cribbed palmetto log parapets. If the ditch fronting the curtain wall were wider, then our Trench 58 came down on the angle where the depression was widest. A much broader area should be opened here to look into this and other questions regarding the details of the first fort in this area.

The Barrel Lined Well in the Neck of the Northwest Bastion of  
the First Fort Moultrie of 1776

A source of water was a necessity for the operation of artillery pieces, and a barrel sunk into the soil where the water table was high would provide a source of water close at hand for the men in the northwest bastion. Such a well was found to the east side of the entranceway to the third fort. A large hogshed had been buried in a pit dug for the purpose, and the fact that it was below water level preserved the staves. An interesting

associated bit of data is the fact that when the brick drain found in Trench 36 (going through the entrance gate of the original fort) is extended conjecturally, it aligns just to the east of the barrel lined well. The swill water from this well was likely carried out of the fort area by means of the drain through the entranceway causeway to the gate. The maps of the fort indicate that a gate was located just in this position, and a parallel example of a gate in such a position to a bastion is seen in the west gate to the third fort, an interesting parallel. More archeology could well be done to reveal the barrel in its entirety and the association of the brick drain or any other features in the area of this corner of the original fort. Such a project, however, would require more funds for a project on a broader scope than the exploratory project just completing at this time. Such an expanded project would require a much larger logistics base, 24 hour pumping, larger areas opened by machine, etc. to reveal in greater detail and scope the first Fort Moultrie as it lies beneath the four feet of accumulated fill from two hundred years of time and occupation.

#### The Cavalier Ditches for the First Fort Moultrie of 1776

In the area west of the fort ditch, near the northwest end, just south of the edge of the sidewalk, the edge of a ditch was seen paralleling the sidewalk and the trench. The area was thickly covered with a garbage deposit of the period of the Revolution, and was found to parallel the curtain wall line found in Square 36. Upon removal of the thick midden deposit the ditch outline was seen as a gray sand filled ditch. When this was examined at one

area it was found to contain the remains of a rotten log. The alignment of this ditch in relation to the fort ditch to the east is the same as seen on the map of the first fort between the west corner of the west side of the northwest bastion. The presence of midden along this ditch to the west clearly reveals the association of this feature with the eighteenth century midden, and the angle between the ditch and the fort ditch is almost the same as that shown on the map, resulting in this ditch feature being designated as a part of the cavalier shown extending from the northwest bastion toward the west on the maps of the fort. Further excavation of the area of the sidewalk is needed to be able to define more clearly these features and to determine what part of the cavalier they represent. Thought was given to doing this in this project, but time prevented this step being taken. Bill Harris, the Superintendent of Fort Moultrie Historic Park was very cooperative when faced with the request to rip up the sidewalk to reveal more details of this feature, but other considerations prevailed, and the walk was not removed. In a more detailed project with Phase 3 archeological emphasis, this sidewalk would have to go.

Two cypress logs were found in the trench south of this sidewalk, and at first they were thought to be a part of the fort, perhaps footing logs for palmetto log cribbing. However, the soil profiles in which these logs lay revealed that the eighteenth century midden was laid down long after the ocean deposited sand was washed against the logs. The westwardmost

log was found to have part of its root structure still intact, clearly revealing its pre-eighteenth century fort context. Further excavation at the fort level over a wide area might well demonstrate that the other log is of the period of the fort, but at present the evidence points to a pre-fort context for both logs.

The Eighteenth Century Garbage Deposits Discarded by the Americans and British Forces at Fort Moultrie from 1776 to the Mid-1780's, and the Artifacts Contained Therein

As mentioned previously the Americans and then the British who occupied the first fort during the period from 1776 to the mid-1780's, during the Revolution, were eating a great number of oysters, clams, conch and mussels, as well as fish of various kinds. They were also eating pig, cow, deer, and possibly other animals and throwing the remains of these food preparation and consuming activities into the fort ditch and the area beyond the ditch, probably tossing the garbage from the top of the cribbed log parapet. It should be remembered that although the north side of the fort was not completed at the time of the battle in 1776, it was incomplete in that the palmetto log cribbing had been raised only to a height of seven feet. From a military point of view this was critical, but from an archeological point of view the ditch surrounding the fort would well have been dug.

Among the food remains were broken pieces of creamware teapots, plates, serving bowls, cups, etc., as well as plates of white salt-glazed stoneware of various patterns, lids to serving dishes, Wedgwood and Whieldon clouded creamware, and other ceramics, all of the period dating from the 1770's and 1780's. Also present

were wine glasses with airtwist stems, wine bottles, (mostly French), case bottles and medicine bottles. Among the military items were musket balls, cannon balls, exploded shell fragments and numerous gunflints.

The buttons are most revealing, and as mentioned before the presence of cast lead or pewter buttons of Moultrie's Second South Carolina Regiment with the relief "2" is a most diagnostic artifact of the eighteenth century midden discarded by the Americans. The British when they took over from the Americans in 1780, continued to dump their garbage into what was left of the ditch in the area of the northwest bastion, and among their garbage were buttons of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, an Irish regiment, the 19th regiment, the 30th regiment, the 62nd and the 63rd regiments. Also among these was a button of the Royal Provençal Regiment with a crown beneath which are the letters "R.P.". A silver watch fob was among the discarded items. Also present were a number of sleeve links, usually oval, with a glass or paste set. One of these was of particular interest, having a red background and a portrait of a young man in bright gold, with gold words around the head "Prince W." This is probably in honor of Prince William, the son of King George III, who at the age of 14 joined the British Navy in 1779 to help with the war effort, and who became a very popular figure among the British. This sleeve link was probably lost by one of the British troops stationed at Fort Moultrie from 1780 to 1782.

Of particular interest in the deposits associated with the first fort are the hundreds of fragments of bone from which bone discs were cut using an auger device, as well as many, many of the

one-holed bone discs of various sizes cut from the bone. This artifact is characteristic of the early deposits of the American and the British occupations and the great number tends to suggest something other than "one hole button" as an explanation for their function, particularly in a military context such as this. From the archeological remains it would appear that they spent much of their time making bone discs. It has been suggested that these may have been used as shaping discs in making paper cartridges, but the variety of sizes would appear to rule out this possibility since some of the discs are very small. As buttons they could have been cloth covered, but again, in a military situation this would seem an unlikely diversion for the troops, and an unlikely necessity. Perhaps they are indeed fointwinder regalia buttons as suggested by one member of the crew.

The early British and American garbage dump is also characterized by plain civilian type buttons of several pieces, a bone back with a silvered or gilt smooth metal face crimped over the bone back. Also of considerable interest is the presence of numerous fragments of colono-Indian pottery, i.e., Indian made pottery, burnished, with black and white and buff firing clouds, and made in the shape of European ceramic forms. One large fragment of one of these vessels with a handle, in imitation of an iron pot was recovered and is an excellent example of the type. One fragment was painted with a red decorative element. A separate paper could be written on the buttons, and the colono-Indian pottery alone, there is so much data from these midden deposits emerging.

A remarkable fact is that all this wealth of artifacts is coming from a total of about five linear feet of the fort ditch itself, and the associated dumping area surrounding the ditch. If a linear area of the ditch approaching fifty feet could be exposed and excavated, the artifact recovery from the Revolutionary War period would approach the truck-load in quantity, and the details from the American and British occupation revealed by this garbage would be outstanding!

Interpretation of the Architectural Data Revealed by Archeology  
Relative to the Positioning of the First Fort  
Moultrie in Relation to the Later Forts on the Site

The straight section of the original fort ditch is 120 feet long before it disappears beneath the entranceway walk to the third fort on the southeast end, and beneath the highway at the northwest end, revealing no angle. However, when a trench was dug across the entranceway walk in line with the ditch, there was no evidence of the ditch, only the buried well with barrel lining was seen. This means that the ditch apparently turns beneath this walkway to the gate of the third fort.

If we can assume an angle at this point, and if we assume an angle shortly after the ditch goes beneath the road, we would still be anchoring our formation of a bastion of the fort primarily on the negative data revealed in one trench. However, when we combine this with the ditch thought to be the cavalier, and with the edge of the east-west running ditch thought to be the ditch in front of the north curtain wall, we have a correlation that forms the shape of a bastion as seen on the drawing accompanying

this report, which is incomplete at this time, but which will be completed by January first according to agreement. This present report constitutes the progress report promised by that date, and the map will follow when it is completed. The final report on this project will be ready by June first as outlined in the contract agreement.

It should be noticed that the shape of the bastion is based on archeological data, but that the salient angle is shaped on the assumption of the same length of ditch for it as was archeologically revealed in the present project. This makes a bastion with equal sides, and when archeology is done across the roadway to the north the shape of the bastion as interpreted here may well change to accommodate the archeological realities. One might argue that there is insufficient data to make the interpretive bastion shape as shown in the drawing by suggesting the elimination of the curtain wall ditch and berm from consideration, and eliminating the feature seen as the cavalier from consideration, and eliminating the stakes driven inside the edge of the ditch from consideration, and the accompanying artifact associations, and the well and drain data, and the gate data, all of which would leave one with a straight ditch 120 feet long that was without a doubt part of the original Fort Moultrie. However, in doing this bit of data amputation one is left with accounting for those bits discarded, and this becomes more difficult than the interpretation of the data in terms of the bastion as drawn.

An important piece of data that has emerged from this study has been the relationship between the map that shows "550 feet" as the size of the fort, and we assume this is from bastion tip

to bastion tip, and a reference stating that the fort was, (as I remember the reference) "200 feet square", or something similar to that. Reconciling these two accounts would seem to be a difficult problem, with someone obviously in error. However, it should be noticed that the distance from the curtain wall to the tip of the bastion along the line of the curtain wall is 175 feet. Two bastions would make a total distance of 350 feet, leaving 200 feet for the distance of the "square" of the fort. It appears, therefore, that both references are right, one having reference to the entire fort from bastion tip to bastion tip, and the other referring to the distance of the "square" represented by the curtain walls.

With these considerations in mind, it becomes important to know the shape of one bastion before conjecturing the location of the others, provided the interpretation is being based on the distance of 550 feet from bastion tip to bastion tip. For this reason it is important that we cut trenches across the road to the north of the area where we have so far worked in order to hopefully catch the converging ditches of the salient angle of the northwest bastion. Once this is positively determined by the archeology, the more accurate interpretation of the shape and extent of the other bastions can be worked out and superimposed on our site map. The present interpretation is based on an assumption that the side of the salient angle would be the same as the southwest side of the bastion, and that the angles of the bastion are about where we have interpreted them as being on our map. To firm these interpretations further archeology should be done in the area north of the street, and this should be done before an attempt to locate the southeast bastion is undertaken.

The outline of the archeological accomplishments of this exploratory Phase 2 project at Fort Moultrie has clearly revealed a portion of the 1776 fort of William Moultrie. The interpretation of this data as the northwest bastion of the first fort is seen on the accompanying archeological base map. Further work is suggested to firmly verify these data in relation to the interpretation, the question no longer being "Where was the first Fort Moultrie", but rather one of firmly establishing what part of the fort we have located. At present it is more difficult to account for the data otherwise than as interpreted in the accompanying map, but there is always the possibility of the next trench revealing additional data that would change the interpretation, which is the name of the game in archeological research, the more data we have the better our interpretations can be.

The exploratory project at Fort Moultrie has accomplished its goal, the discovery of the first Fort Moultrie of 1776, and determining the nature of the remains. Phase 3 archeology is now called for to reveal further data of this huge fortification. As can be seen from the map accompanying this report the relative position of the first fort, the second fort, and the third fort are now seen as anchored in something other than speculation from scanty historical documentation. The second fort, of course is still positioned relative to these scanty historical data, but a project similar to that just completed, designed to locate the exact position of the second fort could well locate the ruins of the second fort.

From the base map it can be seen that the archeology has revealed that the three forts were aligned at virtually the same orientation, at least the first and third forts were so aligned, with the documents indicating a similar alignment for the second fort. The third fort gate was oriented above the first fort's west curtain wall ditch. This position is very close to that suggested by Bearss in his research report, with the alignment being the same, and the actual fort being only 30 feet north and forty feet east of the position suggested by Bearss. This certainly indicates the validity of the assumptions upon which Bearss operated in carrying out his tentative correlation.

#### Recommendations for Further Work at Fort Moultrie

With the first fort found and its position known, the further archeological work can concentrate on revealing the fort for examination and study. As mentioned earlier a first step would be to fix the position of the salient angle by cutting trenches across the road to the north in an effort to locate the ditch in this area as suggested in the interpretive map. A second suggestion has been that a longer section of the fort ditch in the area of the intense artifact concentration be exposed and excavated in order to recover the mass of Revolutionary War period artifacts from the American and British military occupation of the site. Such a collection would be invaluable in interpretation of the details of daily life, as revealed in buttons, etc. thrown out as garbage from 1776 to 1783. The next step would be to examine the fort ditch and associated data wherever it can be found, as revealed by the present interpreted map of the position of the fort.

The northeast bastion containing the powder magazine appears to lie beneath the street and the adjoining property owned by others than the National Park Service. The southwest bastion is seen to have been eliminated by the construction of the third fort, and by the rear wall of the second fort. The southeast bastion, the most important in terms of historical interest, appears to be free and clear in the field to the east of the third fort. The first trench cut on the site during the present project was positioned over the neck of this bastion, apparently, however, we did not dig deep enough to reach the level of the fort, due to water. A backhoe cut was made, however, and a black occupation and marsh layer was seen from 6 to 10 feet below present grade, which means that any evidence of the fort would lie at that depth, all above that level being ~~ocean~~ laid sand and wind blown sand dunes.

In order to obtain an idea of the relative depth of this black layer seen in the backhoe cut in the area of the southeast bastion to the depth of the eighteenth century fort level in the excavated area of the northwest bastion, a comparison of actual depths above sea level must be made. The surface above the southeast bastion is presently at an elevation of about nine feet. The backhoe revealed humus layer was six feet deep, making it three feet above sea level. The present surface of the ground above the excavated areas of the northwest bastion is about seven feet, with the level at which the fort data can be read being around four feet deep, being three feet above sea level. With this three foot above sea level point being the same in both the areas, we might expect that evidence of the fort might well lie

beneath the six foot deposit of beach laid sand over the southeast bastion. With this fact verified we can suggest that a deep project to test the area of the southeast bastion be undertaken first to test for the kind of data revealed in such a project, and then if the results are positive, a more extensive project could be undertaken, provided of course, that there was enough interest and funds available to undertake such a deep archeological project under adverse conditions. Such a project would involve putting in permanent well points on a contractual basis to a depth of ten to fifteen feet, with pumps running night and day to lower the water table. When this is done a drag line could then be used to remove the six feet of sand from over the area of the southeast bastion, and this accomplished the archeological work could begin to examine the ditch outline, midden deposits, brick features, etc. possibly remaining from the first fort bastion at this site.

Outline of a Major Phase Three Archeological Project at the Site of the Southeast Bastion of Fort Moultrie of 1776

Justification for a Phase Three Archeological Project at the Southeast Bastion of the Fort

If the primary reason for excavating at the site of the southeast bastion is to recover artifacts, or to determine the nature of the fort data as to ditch, palisades, logs, etc. then the money may be better spent on a Phase Three examination of the area already known to be loaded with such data. If, however,

The objective of such an expensive archeological venture was to fix the exact position of the bastion, and to recover data of vital and specific use in constructing a Phase 8 Explanatory Exhibit on the site of the original fort, then such an archeological undertaking would be warranted. In fact, no Phase 8 Explanatory Exhibit in the form of rebuilt palmetto log cribs, re-dug ditch, re-positioned flag pole, re-built platforms should be undertaken without first carrying out a Phase 3 archeological project. Since six feet of beach sand must be removed from the area, and the water table lowered three to four feet, this project will be an expensive one. The pumps will have to run twenty-four hours a day for the entire period of the dig, probably three months, and an area the size of a football field will be required to be removed to a depth of six feet just to reveal this single bastion. With such a project in mind the following suggestions for an archeological project are presented.

1. The project should be scheduled for at least three months.
2. The three month project should have a financial base of ten thousand dollars per month.
3. The expense of the cataloging, laboratory work, analysis, writing the report, preparation of the copies, research will require an additional nine months, and should be budgeted at ten thousand dollars.
4. The scheduling of the work would have to be compatible with the scheduling of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology schedule for 1974, provided the contract was with that Institute. Summer months present the best opportunity for quality assistants, students, graduate students, etc. to be available, but fall months have better working conditions.

This report is presented at a meeting of National Park Service personnel concerned with the Fort Moultrie project, held at Fort Moultrie on Monday, November 26, 1973, at which meeting a presentation of the archeological data, slides, drawings, artifacts is to be made by the archeologist, and various other plans and proposals presented for evaluation. This meeting is designed to determine what the next steps to be taken are regarding further archeological research, and what steps toward explanatory exhibits should be taken. This report, the slide presentation, the artifacts, a tour of the site, etc. will all constitute the archeological part of the presentation designed to assist with guidelines for these goals. On this day the backfilling of the site begins and the archeological research phase of this exploratory project ends.

The superintendent of the site, Bill Harris, has been most helpful, friendly, and cooperative throughout the project, as have been his staff. Seldom do we get such good humored cooperation from administrators while we are making what looks like a battlefield out of their front yard. We hope that finding the bastion of the first fort beneath all that pretty grass was worth the inconvenience to Bill and his staff.

Stanley South, Archeologist  
Institute of Archeology and Anthropology  
University of South Carolina

November 24, 1973